

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 23, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-21 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 10-16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,739,880 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,550 to Kadota et al. (hereinafter "Kadota"). Claims 1-5, 10-16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,429,917 to Okamoto et al. (hereinafter "Okamoto") in view of Kadota. Claims 6-9 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki or Okamoto in view of Kadota and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,388 to Aoya (hereinafter "Aoya").

The rejection of claims 1-21 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-21 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "an over-coat layer on the first substrate having the black matrix and the color filter; a seal pattern on the over-coat layer; and...wherein a thickness of the over-coat layer is between approximately about 1.2 μ m and about 5 μ m" (claim 1). None of the cited references including Suzuki, Kadota, Okamoto, and Aoya, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Suzuki, Kadota, Okamoto, and Aoya structures in that none of the references disclose "wherein a thickness of the over-coat layer is between approximately about 1.2 μ m and about 5 μ m" (claims 1 and 11).

For example, the Examiner attempts to combine the Suzuki and Okamoto structures with the thickness layer of Kadota, however, the references are not combinable in this manner. For example, the planarization layer of Kadota is not an overcoat layer as described in Suzuki and Okamoto. The Kadota planarization layer formed on the TFT substrate to make that substrate level. However the overcoat layers of Suzuki and Okamoto are formed to level the color filter layer, not the TFT substrate. Thus the two types of layers are not compatible or combinable in

the manner suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine such a planarization layer with these overcoat layers.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1 and claims 11 and 12-21, which depend from claim 11, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

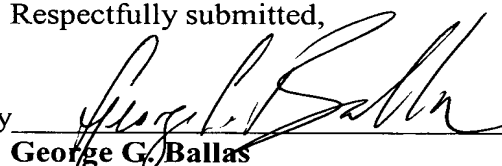
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 23, 2005

By



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